



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

**SEP 23 2019**

Emma Best  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 79451  
411A Highland Ave  
Sommerville, MA 02144

Via email: 79451-08478216@requests.muckrock.com

Re: HQ-2019-01367-F

Dear Ms. Best:

This is an interim response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. You requested:

Documents mentioning or describing any use of "Still Interested" letters (i.e. letters inquiring if the requester is still interested in the records requested) in the processing and/or closure of FOIA requests, including but not limited to:

- The original proposal for their use
- Materials authorizing the use of any of the letters
- Controlling policies or procedures
- Any reports or statistics tracking their use, responses received and/or impact on any FOIA backlog
- Communications with OGIS regarding "Still Interested" letters
- Communications between the FOIA offices and and general counsel's/legal services office discussing or mentioning "still interested" letters
- Materials describing or discussing the number of days given to requesters to respond
- Materials describing the agency's policy on reopening requests when a requester responds after the period of time specified in the letter

In your letter, you requested a waiver of all fees associated with the processing of this request. For purposes of assessment of any fees, you have been categorized under the DOE regulation that implements the FOIA at Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 1004.9(b)(4) as an "other" requester. Requesters in this category are entitled to two (2) free hours of search time and are provided 100 pages at no cost. At this time, fees for the request are not expected to exceed \$15.00, the minimum amount at which DOE assesses fees, and we will not address the



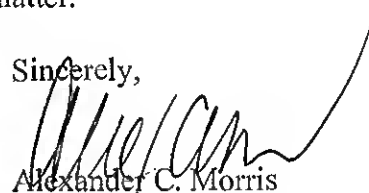
request for a fee waiver. If fees are expected to exceed \$15.00, we will address the fee waiver or contact you regarding a fee agreement.

You may contact DOE's FOIA Public Liaison, Alexander Morris, FOIA Officer, Office of Public Information at 202-586-5955, or by mail at MA-46/Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Please refer to the above referenced number in any communications with DOE about the request. If you have any questions about the processing of your request or this letter, you may contact Ms. Anjelica Ruda of my office at MA-46/Forrestal building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, or at 202-287-6745.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Morris', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Alexander C. Morris  
FOIA Officer  
Office of Public Information